# Richard,3rd Duke of York

By Matthew Lincoln

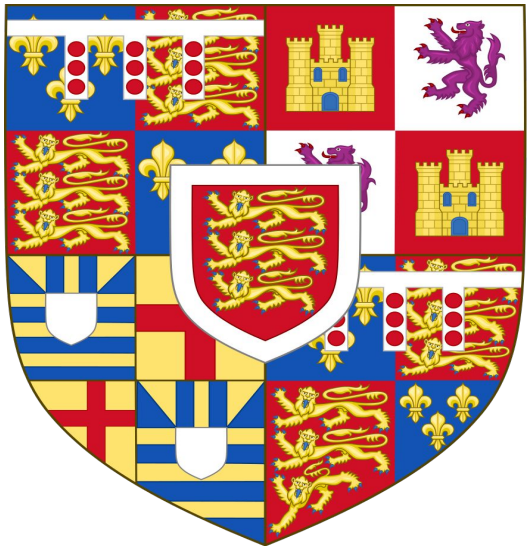
# Early Background

1411- Richard was born, his father Ricard, Earl of Cambridge was killed for treason. His mother died shortly after his birth.

Both of Richard's parents were descendants of Edward III of England making Richard a close relation to King England.

1415- Two of his uncles die, he inherits is dukedom and title from his paternal uncle Edmond as well as land in Wales and Southern England. From his uncle Edmond Mortimer, 5th Earl of March he inherits lands in Ireland. These inheritances made Richard one of the wealthiest men in England.

1433- Knight of the Garter



# Normandy

1436- Richard became Lieutenant-General of France, arrived in Normandy in 1437 with 2,700 men. He was successful in taking back many lost lands and several towns. He was diplomatic which gained him popularity with his soldiers but also the peasantry.

1440- He was chosen to conduct peace negotiations with Charles VII. Charles and Richard would have a cordial friendship for many years to come.

Richard led a decisive attack that the French siege of Pontoise and drove Charles on Richmond. This was considered a spectacular victory making Richard a hero among the common people, This victory was instrumental in the Truce of Tours.

Ricard received no financial help from Parliament paying for the cost of food, supplies, as well as the wages of his men himself.

After the Truce of Tours Richard was chosen to negotiate another peace treaty with  Isobel, the Duchess of Burgundy

# Ireland:The Start of Rivalry

1445- King Henry VI married Margaret of Anjou, she doesn't trust Richard due to his close relationship with the King.

1446- Richard is made Lieutenant of Ireland, the second prestige title in England. The majority of the Irish Earls welcome him due to his descent from Lionel, Duke of Clarence and of the Mortimer earls and William de Burgh.

Within three years he was able to quell all Irish resistance to English presence in Ireland. He was diplomatic in his dealings with the Irish and some saw him as a natural King of Ireland.

1450- Edmund Beaufort who was Lieutenant-Governor of France lost almost all English lands to France including the private property of Richard in Caen. This started the rivalry between these two men.

# Cade’s Rebellion

July 1451 a rebellion broke out led by a man named Jack Cade. He was a Robin Hood type character that placed charges on the King's inner circle. Jack declared himself mayor of England and had a few prominent people beheaded. They would be kicked out of London and ultimately defeated within a few months none of the less some of their causes set the foundation for what would become the Yorkist cause.

Main Causes:Return of blood relatives to aid the King in his governance of the Kingdom,Rid the KIng of malicious influences (Edmund Beaufort was deemed such an influence.) and Improved Taxation.

Even though Richard was in Ireland when this took place he was inadvertently linked to the rebellion. Whenever Jack Cade entered a town he would declare that it was Mortimer property now. Jack's call for a return of blood relatives was also seen as reaching out to Richard.

No connection between Richard and Jack Cade has ever been verified.

When Richard returned to Ireland he had to swear his loyalty to King and country

# England in Turmoil

In the North of England, feuds break between various Lords. Some of these factions have links to Richard through blood ties as well as those he served within France.  King Charles VIII of France launches attacks against the English in Gascon and Henry has a mental breakdown, he would not speak, nor move, nor even feed himself.

Queen Margaret makes a bid for the thrown but Parliament would not allow her to rule. Instead, they call for Richard naming him Protector of the realm. Richard threw Edmund Beaufort to the Tower and allowed the Queen to be marginalized.

In December the King regained his memory, Edmund Beaufort is released from the Tower.

King and Queen want Richard arrested

# Foundation of War

June 1460- a manifesto appeared that highlighted the crimes of the king, called for his blood to aid him. and charged those who maliciously mislead the King to be charged with treason.

Richard also demanded that his bloodline be recognized as the true inheritor of the crown. This would mean that Henry's line was illegitimate meaning that England was ruled by a line of usurpers, Parliament tried to avoid war by allowing Henry to live out his days as KIng but upon his death, Richard and his descendants would be proclaimed rightful rulers of England.

Queen Margaret raised an army against Richard and his Yorkists . The two armies clashed at the Battle of Wakefield, Margaret killed Richard and placed his head on a pike with a paper crown overlooking York.

On New Year's day one of Richard's sons Edward picked up his father's cause, the War of the Roses begun.